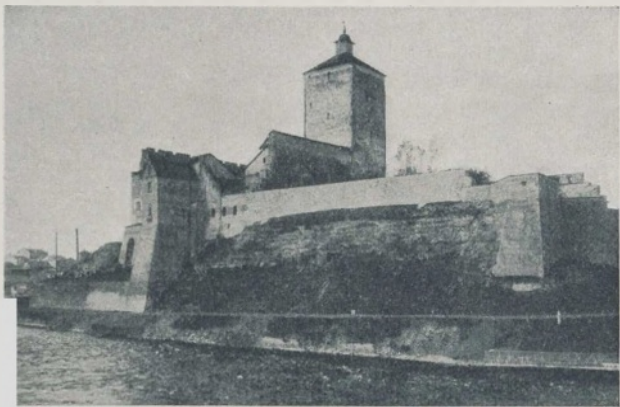




NARVA

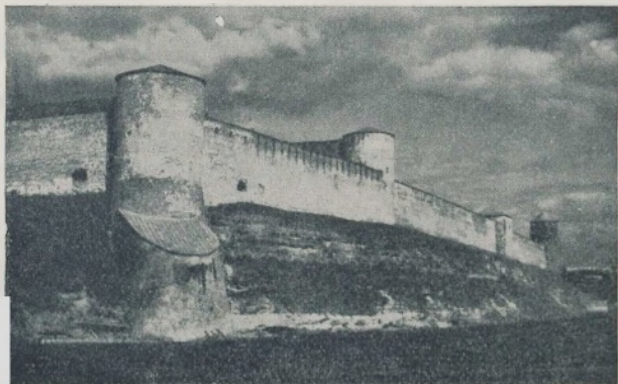
The most interesting
medieval town of Estonia



Narva — The Castle with the tower of Long Herman.

NARVA.

With its eventful past and wealth of antiquities, Narva is undoubtedly the most interesting of the medieval towns in Estonia. It was founded in the 13th century. First of all, a frontier fortress was built and a centre of lively trade soon sprang up against the background of this fortress. Owing to its precarious situation on the frontier, the town was surrounded by protective walls at the beginning of the 14th century. Its position on a favourite trade route confirmed the commercial importance of the town until it developed eventually into one of the chief stock markets for Russian trade. The merchants of the Hansa Trade Society held predominance up to the middle of the 16th century; but after the conquest of Narva by the Russian Czar, Ivan the Terrible, in the year 1558, commerce became comparatively international. The English, in particular, appeared with their great fleet of merchant ships; and the English Trade Society, a "Fellowship of English merchants for discovery of new trades", even obtained from the English parliament, in the year 1666, a monopoly to do business with Russia through Narva and Archangel. The trading company organisation sent out to Narva an energetic agent, Christopher Hudson, who proved to be a thoroughly capable merchant, yielding to the company a profit of 40%, though trade with Narva was dangerous during these times when pirates sailed the high seas. Even the Swedish warships in the Gulf of Finland did their utmost to impede navigation, and all merchant vessels had to be fully armed. In the year 1569, for instance, a fleet of English cargo boats, under the command of William Barrow, met six Polish freebooter ships, which he succeeded partly in capturing partly in destroying. Barrow delivered up eighty-three pirates in Narva to the Russian *vojevoda*, who condemned them to be hung. In common with the English and Hansa ports, Narva maintained a busy trade with Holland, Denmark, France and Spain. The English merchants endeavoured to secure from the Russian Czar a monopoly for trading in Narva and thus to get rid of their commercial rivals; and they succeeded with regard to the Hansa League. After the conquest of Narva by Sweden in 1581, British trade was transferred from Narva to Archangel. The Swedish trade policy was now to redirect Russian trade towards Narva. The Swedish government tried to make Narva the second capital of the Swedish Empire. At the end of the 17th century, they revived the commerce of the town and transformed it into a transit port of international importance. Even many Britons and Scots have become inhabitants of Narva.



Narva — The Castle of Ivangorod, built by the Russian Grand Duke Ivan III.

Narva was no less renowned as a stronghold. In medieval times, the River Narva was the frontier of Russia and the country governed by the Teutonic Order. In the 17th century, the frontier went deeper into Russia, but the strategical significance of Narva remained unchanged. For the entire period of 600 years Narva has been a fortress. It is for this reason that, from a technical point of view, its fortifications have passed through some interesting developments. These three distinct periods, during which the fortress has been built, call forth from every traveller admiration for Narva's famous past.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, Narva launched out as an industrial town. The Cloth Factory was constructed in 1820, a Flax Mill in 1851 and the Kreenholm Cotton Mill in 1857, — the last having been run before the Great War with 18,000 workers. On the foundation of the Estonian Republic in 1918, Narva was the scene of historic battles against the Bolsheviks, it played a similar part as the fortress of Verdun did in the Great War on the western front.

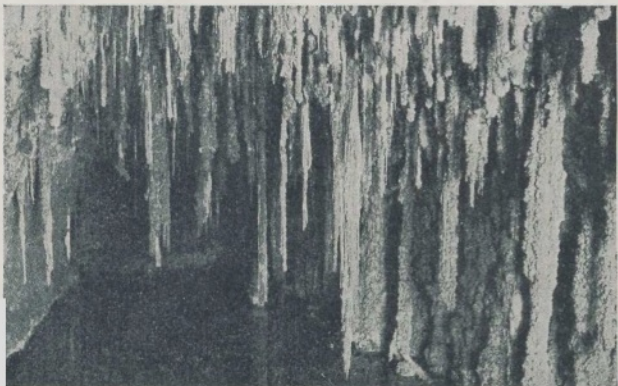
To become acquainted with the town, let us start our tour from Narva Castle, (1) which was constructed by the Danes in the second half of the 13th century, on the western bank of river Narva, to defend the trade routes, and was reinforced by the Livonian Order. After the completion of the Russian fortress Ivangorod on the opposite shore, there was built a square tower, "Pikk Herman", 51 meters high and 71 meters above sea-level, from which it is possible to look across onto Ivangorod. Cannons placed on the top of the tower reigned over the entire vicinity during the battles against Russians. Even now, from its dominating heights, there is a fine view of the town and its environs, while, in clear weather, the Russian town of Kingisepp may be seen. The citadel has two front fortresses, the smaller being built at the same time as the citadel, — the other in the 14th century, in which is situated the former palace of the Governor-general of Ingeri. Across the river, just opposite the Narva citadel is situated the ten-towered fortress of Ivangorod, (2) which the Russian Grand-Duke, Ivan III, started to construct in 1492. The life of this fortress, belonging to the first building period, was not long. As early as in 1496, the Swedes, coming from Finland, permanently destroyed it. Immediately afterwards, at the beginning of 16th century, however, the fortress was reconstructed. The building was done under supervision of famous Italian building contractors. The most ancient part of the fortress is a court, with double walls, on the banks of the river. Here is also the house where Ivan the Terrible lived during his stay in Narva. In the spacious courtyard of the fortress there are two Greek-Catholic churches. The smallest of these, the church of Saint Nikolai the miracle worker, is in Byzantine style; and according to the old legends,



Narva — The waterfall.

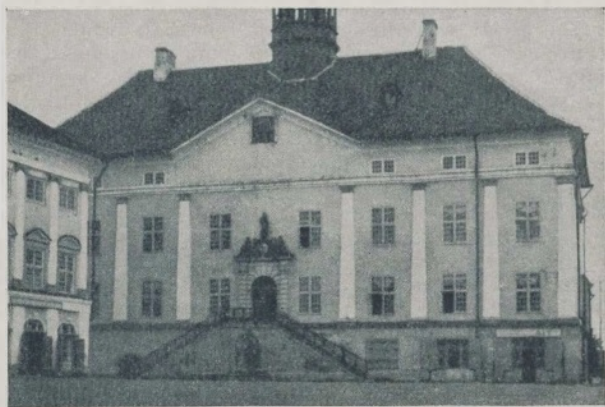
It would appear to have been constructed by Ivan the Terrible in twenty-four hours because it was necessary for the inauguration of the fortress. The larger, now used as a church, was built on the ruins of the former monastery. The walls of the fortress are well-preserved, as are also two places for drawing water, and the cannon platforms on the top of the towers. The fortresses of Narva and Ivangorod have mounted guard for centuries, like two grim warriors challenging each other, on either side of the narrow channel of the river. The citadette of Narva represents the Western culture, while Ivangorod is typical of the Eastern culture. Even now, that part of the town lying east of the river is distinctly different in character from the rest of Narva. Here the tourist feels that he has suddenly been transported into Eastern Europe. A little walk from there brings us to a park (3) of oak-trees, which were planted here to commemorate the first Estonian battle for freedom on February 28th, in the year 1918. For the enlightenment of the next generation, the war-time trenches are still preserved, including the armour plating and wire entanglements. Coming back to the town, we ascend the stone staircase leading to the Koidula Promenade (4), which runs round the walls of the fortress of the 17th century. Here, from the incline rising steeply from the shore, we obtain a splendid view of the rapidly-flowing river and the bastions of the fortress. The first of these bastions was called "Wrangel" (5). It was built approximately in the year 1670. Further away to the north side is situated the enormous bastion "Victoria" (6). Those relics of medieval warfare, give a good idea of the methods of defence employed in the 17th century, and impress us greatly with the immense industry and expenditure employed by Sweden, in order to protect the eastern frontier. The belt of fortification, beginning from this bastion, was built in 1682—1704, after the plans of the famous northern fortifier, Erik Dahlberg. It was the "Victoria" bastion which was destroyed by the cannon of the Russian Czar, Peter I, when he invaded the town in 1704. A simple iron cross is placed on the bastion to commemorate the event. From the bastion "Honor" (7), situated to the west of "Victoria", we come to the bastion "Gloria" (8), all of which, with their almost interminable underground passages whose roofs are covered with stalactites, are perfectly preserved. The outside walls of the fortresses are also still in excellent condition, as are the moats of the ramparts, ravelins and countercarps. The nine bastions of the fortress were: Victoria, Honor, Gloria, Fama, Triumph, Fortuna, Spes, Justicia and Pax. Returning to the old town, we see on Kraavia Street one of the bastions of the older fortification period "Kuningavalli" (9) and parts of the ruins of the old town walls. (10).

Arriving in the Town Hall Square, we observe that it is surrounded by houses built in the 17th century,



Narva — Stalactites in an underground passage.

Each one seeming to be more quaintly charming than the rest. First, we must inspect the Town Hall (11), whose slender tower strikes the eye from afar. The Town Hall was built during the years 1668—1674 by the master-builder from Lübeck, Georg Teuffel. The decorations of its portal were accomplished in the year 1684 by the Dutch sculptor, Millich, in Stockholm. The front of the Town Hall, decorated with half-pilasters, seems also to be Dutch. The balustrade and the ironwork of the front door, demonstrate admirably the fine craftsmanship of the artisans of Narva during these times. Of those rooms in the Town Hall which have maintained their original appearance are two halls, whose ceilings are adorned with old paintings. The most impressive building to be seen near the Town Hall is the former Exchange building (12), whose construction was started in the year 1691, according to the plans of the famous architect and artist, Herold. In its original state, the building was mounted by a high tower with two galleries, which was unfortunately destroyed in the 19th century. The third house, built in the same style, is the town Weighing House (13). Without even knowing the history of Narva, we obtain an idea from these houses what a prosperous trading town it must have been up to the 17th century. We receive the same impression when we inspect the residences, which are comparatively simple, though their artistic portals and coats-of-arms seem almost nonumental in their magnificence. Not far from the Town Hall, we catch sight of the house of the pastor Michael Scholbach, erected in 1653 (14), Berndt Erich's house, 1672 (15) and the so-called Kramer house, 1697 (16). But the most exceptional example of the great wealth of these old merchants is the house of Herman Poorteln, Rütli tän. 24, 1695 (17). A little



Narva — Town Hall.



Narva — One of the underground passages.

further on, at the corner of Rütli and Rahu streets, is the house of Levin von Numens, 1652 (18), where the hospital of the first division is now placed. Near Poorten's house, we find the hotel of the Persian and Armenian merchants (19), which was built especially for this purpose and then reconstructed by the Swedish government. Close by is the Lavretsovs Municipal Museum and Archives (20). The museum contains a large collection of 19th century paintings and the ethnographical sec-

tion of Estonia and Ingeri, while the archives date back to as early as 1374. Opposite the museum is the house of Czar Peter I, with its museum (21), where we will find it worth while to inspect the furniture of the Czar and his personal belongings, among which is the famous tick (dubinka). Here also is the model of the warship he made himself, and his boots. Among the most interesting of these exhibits may be seen old firearms, historical objects of culture and a celebrated 18th century library possessed by the Narva patrician, duard Suttoff. No less fascinating is the house itself. It was erected in the 17th century, and bought by the government at the beginning of the Russian period, since when it has been known as Peter the Great's palace. As we leave here and enter Koidu Street, two 17th century buildings facing each other may be seen. The one on the left is the house of Colonel Johan Stael von Holstein (22), whose staircase, portal and lanterns are so well-preserved. On the right side is a house with two corner towers, reminiscent of South Germany, built by the Mayor of Narva, Johan Christoph Schwartz in 1666 (23). Returning to Koidu Street, we pause before an old church in the Renaissance style (24). It belongs now to the German Lutheran congregation, but in the 17th century it was Swedish "Dome" Church. It was constructed in 1641, when it was supposed to have served as a Swedish garrison church. The Rus-



Narva — The Hall of one of the 17th century houses.



Narva-Jõesuu — The hotel-restaurant "Kuurhoone".

ian Orthodox Cathedral (25), which lies quite near, is the oldest edifice of the town. It was erected in the 15th century, belonged to a German congregation until 1704, was used in medieval times as a Catholic church, while, later the church services of the Lutheran faith were held there. After the conquest of the town in 1704, the church was presented to the Russian parishioners by Czar Peter I. In return for this, the Lutheran congregation obtained a little later the Swedish church. In spite of the fact that the church was reconstructed for the Greek-Catholic church, we still find here some relics of the 17th century and medieval times. For instance, a quaint old baroque pulpit, adorned with carved wooden statues of Christ and four apostles, exists to this day, as does also the large wooden crucifix which has been coloured in modern times. Interesting again is the wheel-cross with its symbolical statues of apostles, and crucifixes with texts. In front of the church is a long row of shops, built 300 years ago. (26). Thence, proceeding southwards, we come to the "Door of the Sinners", at the corner of Viru and Suur Streets, (27) constructed in 1592, illustrated with combinations of real skulls and crossbones. Across the street is the Hotel "Peterburg" (28), one of the best in the town, the façade of which is decorated with a portal in baroque style. The house was erected in the year 1650 by the mayor and wholesale merchant, Laurens von Numens. On the door can be found his coat-of-arms, and also that of his wife (born Fock). Going along Viru Street and crossing Suur Street, we arrive at the former Town Hall, at the corner of Eha and Viru Street, which the Swedish king Gustav Adolf presented to the town in 1614(29). This house is adorned with the coat-of-arms of the assistant administrator, Philipp von Scheduling. In those times, there was no larger house in the neighbourhood, so that all marriage ceremonies and other family festivities took place here. We are next attracted by the massive beauty of the portal of No. 6 Viru Street, which is the entrance to the house of the English merchant, William Kettlewell, built in 1598 (30). Near by, we observe the ruins of the bastions of the oldest fortification period, known as "Wanavall" (31), and southwards from here we approach, in a garden, the ruins of walls of the same period (32).

Having acquired a thorough knowledge of the old town, we arrive, after a short motor-drive, at the huge Narva waterfalls (33), where enormous masses of water are flung from a height of 7 meters, creating a cloud of spray which, in the sunlight, displays all the colours of the rainbow. Above and below the waterfalls form rapids, the general length of which in the region of Narva is about 5 kilometers, while the entire fall of water within this distance amounts to 21 meters. Close to the waterfall are the textile factories, the Wool and the Flax mills on the right bank, and the



Narva-Jõesuu — Villa Capriccio.

Greenholm cotton mills on the left bank and the islands. These cascades and rapids, amid the wonder of nature's beauty, present an excellent opportunity for fishing, since plenty of salmon and trout may be found here. When we leave the waterfalls, we can pay a visit to the battlefield of "Joala", where are five memorial signs in commemoration of the battles fought against the Bolshevics in 1918. Finally, we take a motor-drive along the Tallinn road to the Pritska pinewood (34), the scene of the famous battle of Narva between the Swedish King Karl XII and the Russian Czar Peter I in 1700. Here the Swedes broke through the Russian fortified line, 7 kilometers long, in their attempt to bring help to Narva, which was besieged by the Russian army. The Russian redoubts and trenches are still preserved in certain places and the fortifications are crowded with memorial signs. The largest of these is situated on the place where Karl XII commanded the battle in person during its preliminary phases.

Those establishments most required by tourists are indicated on the plan, viz: the Post Office, Police Headquarters, Address Bureau (35), Bank of Estonia (36), the harbour (37) and the railway station (38).

Visitors to Narva must not fail to make a trip to the great sea-side resort, Narva-Jõesuu, which is 12 kilometers from Narva. Its exquisite sandy beach, pine forests, comfortable boarding-houses and hotel-restaurants — all help to make Narva-Jõesuu the most elegant and convenient summer resort in North Europe. Here, every facility is offered for excursions along the charming Viru coast by motorcar, or by motorboat to the Estonian Ingeri and the Russian frontier. We must not delay paying a visit to river Rosson, with its picturesque shores, and Lake Vaikne, bordered with pinewoods. In the villages of Ingeri, many ethnographical rarities may be found. The lovely character of the Viru beach changes abruptly westward



Narva-Jõesuu — The Beach.



Narva — The Hall of one of the 17th century houses.

o Narva-Jõesuu, where limestone cliffs rise in places o 60 meters above the level of the sea.

The following are some of the most important establishments, shops and amusements:

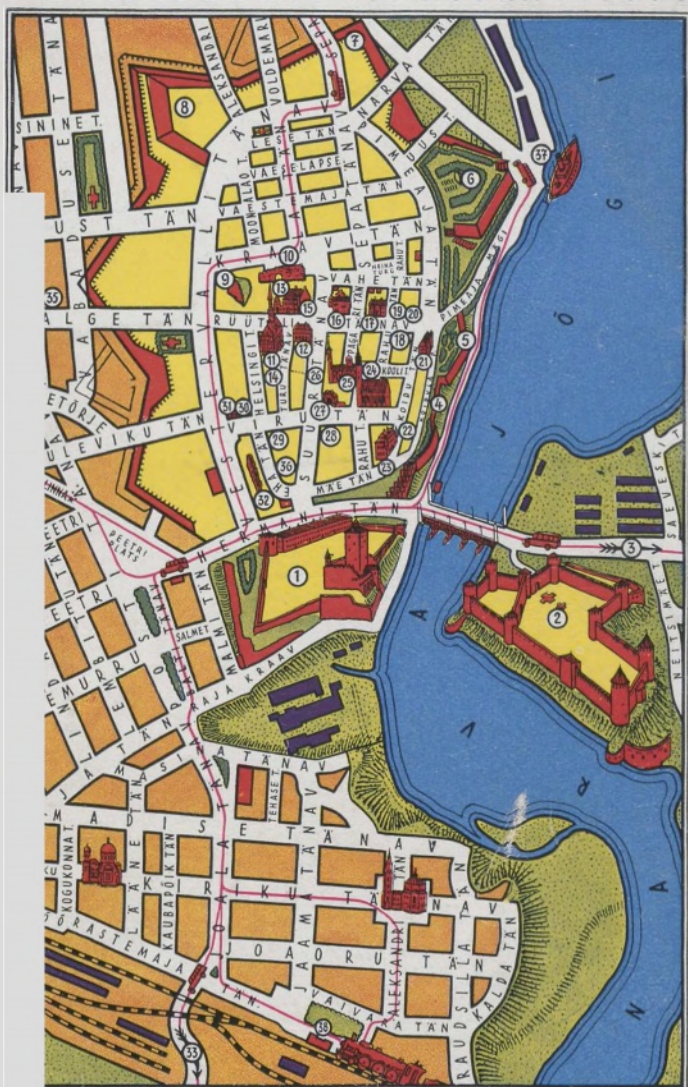
1. The Municipality, Town Hall.
2. Police Headquarters, Posti tän. 36.
3. Post and Telegraph Office, Valge tän. 7.
4. Branch of Estonian State Bank, Suur tän. 4.
5. The Municipal Archives, Rüütli tän. 28.
6. The Municipal Museum, Rüütli tän. 28.
7. Czar Peter the Great's house, Rüütli tän. 21.
8. Tourist Bureau, Rüütli tän. 28, branch office Hermani tän. 11.
9. Theatre, Joala tän. 27.
10. Hotel „Du Nord“, Suur tän. 28.
11. Hotel „Central“, Suur tän. 30.
12. Hotel „Peterburg“, Viru tän. 13.
13. Cafe J. Miitan, Suur tän. 19.
14. Cafe „Ateena“, Suur tän. 14.



Narva — A Swedish monument in remembrance of the famous battle of Narva in 1700.

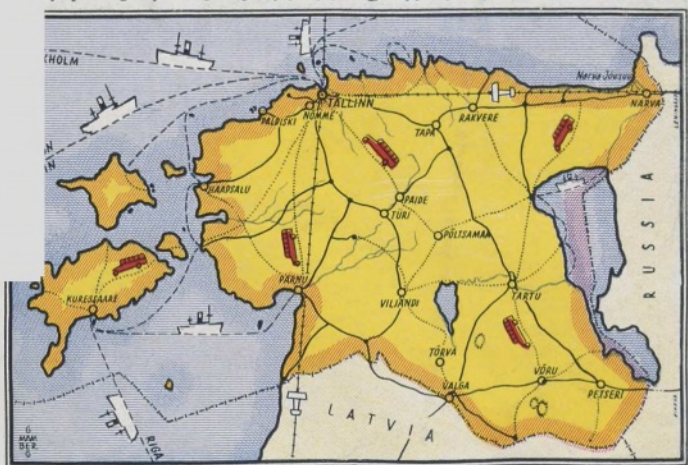
NARVA

THE OLD TOWN AND ITS ATTRACTIONS



ESTONIA

MAP OF COMMUNICATIONS



Published by the Tourist Traffic Association of Estonia.

Tallinna Eesti Kirjastus-Ühisuse trükikoda, Pikk t. 2. 1937.